

Application No.: 09/431,546

Docket No.: INTERLINK 3.0-003

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claim 1 to further specify that the "protease inhibitory activity" includes (i.e., is not necessarily limited to) "ability to increase resistance of the protein to degradation or inactivation by proteases," as per the teachings on page 11, lines 7-8 of the specification. Thus, no new matter has been added. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

As an additional point of clarification, the phrase "protein" in claims 1, 38, 42 and 45 is defined in the specification (e.g., page 6, lines 11-14) as embracing peptides, polypeptides and proteins.

At this time, Applicants are submitting the Declaration under Rule 132 by Dr. Nicholas P. Everett, a co-inventor of the captioned patent application. The Declaration addresses various issues raised by the Examiner in the Office Action.

Applicants submit that the present amendment and attached Declaration, taken together with the amendment filed on September 23, 2002, serve to place the claims in condition for allowance. The Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned if he has any questions.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

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Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

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Respectfully submitted,

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

1. (TWICE AMENDED) A method for reducing the extent of protease degradation of a protein applied to or produced by a plant comprising administering to the plant or a part thereof a peptide comprising indolicidin, Arg-Arg-Trp-Pro-Trp-Trp-Pro-Trp-Lys-Trp-Pro-Leu-Ile (Rev4), or a functional equivalent of indolicidin or Rev4, wherein said functional equivalent possesses protease inhibitory activity comprising ability to increase resistance of the protein to degradation or inactivation by proteases.